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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

SAFAVI, MICHAEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3673

DATE MAILED: 03/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/660,528

Applicant(s)

JACKSON ET AL.

Examiner

M. Safavi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19, 21 and 23-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-19, 33 and 34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21, and 23-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the feature of *"contact surfaces...[with] at least some of the contact surfaces maintain a separation distance between the pairs of cords at least as large as the sum of the thickness of the heads of the bolts used to bolt struts to the cords, such that the pairs of cords may slide relative to each other without the heads of the bolts...contacting"*, (claim 29), must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner,

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the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The specification does not appear clear and complete as to the feature of "contact surfaces...[with] at least some of the contact surfaces maintain a separation distance between the pairs of cords at least as large as the sum of the thickness of the heads of the bolts used to bolt struts to the cords, such that the pairs of cords may slide relative to each other without the heads of the bolts...contacting"

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is not clear as to what is being defined by the language of claim 29. The feature of "contact surfaces...[with] at least some of the contact surfaces maintain a separation distance between the pairs of cords at least as large as the sum of the thickness of the heads of the bolts used to bolt struts to the cords, such that the pairs of cords may slide relative to each other without the heads of the bolts...contacting" is not clearly described in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Foulds. Foulds discloses, Figs. 2 and 5, A truss comprising one or more truss members 7 forming a generally horizontal cord having a middle and a pair of opposed ends; a pair of diagonal members 1 having first and second ends and an adjustable member 4 oriented generally vertically and having an upper end and a lower end with the upper end of the adjustable member connected to the middle of the horizontal cord of the truss, and the lower end of the adjustable member is connected to a first end of each of the diagonal members, (as along 8), and the second ends of the diagonal members are connected one to each of the ends of the horizontal cord, (as along 2 and 3).

Claims 23 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Beltz. Beltz discloses, Figs. 3 and 7, A truss comprising a truss comprising a first truss section 10 having first section upper and lower generally horizontal cords 12, 14 separated by first section struts 40, 42, a second truss section 10 having second section upper and lower generally horizontal cords 12, 14 separated by second section struts 40, 42, wherein the second section upper and lower cords can be attached to first ends of the first section upper and lower cords in a plurality of locations 34,35 such that the truss may be assembled in a plurality of widths, col. 4, lines 9-12.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 24, 27-30, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beltz. To have provided the Beltz truss assembly with any number of connected truss sections, including a third truss section, thus allowing formation of any particularly sized truss as maybe necessary, would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made particularly since it has been well established that mere duplication of parts has no patentable significance unless a new and unexpected result is produced, In re Harza, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960). Further, To have formed the Beltz truss assembly with the ends of the upper and lower cords having respective telescopic sliding connection one with another, (e.g., form one end of a cord smaller so as to slidably fit within a mating end of a longitudinally aligned cord), would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made particularly since it has been well established that the use of a one piece construction instead of multi-piece assembly would be merely a matter of obvious engineering choice, In re Larson, 340 F.2d 965, 968, 144 USPQ 347, 349 (CCPA 1965).

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Claims 22, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beltz in view of Botel et al.

Beltz discloses, Figs. 3 and 7, A truss comprising a truss comprising a first truss section 10 having first section upper and lower generally horizontal cords 12, 14 separated by first section struts 40, 42, a second truss section 10 having second section upper and lower generally horizontal cords 12, 14 separated by second section struts 40, 42, wherein the second section upper and lower cords can be attached to first ends of the first section upper and lower cords in a plurality of locations 34,35 such that the truss may be assembled in a plurality of widths, col. 4, lines 9-12. Beltz does not appear to specifically disclose an adjustable member connected to a pair of diagonal members serving to vary the camber of an accompanying tension rod.

However, Botel et al. discloses, Fig. 1, A truss comprising one or more truss members 1 forming a generally horizontal cord having a middle and a pair of opposed ends; a pair of diagonal members 9 having first and second ends and an adjustable member 10-14 oriented generally vertically and having an upper end and a lower end with the upper end of the adjustable member connected to the middle of the horizontal cord of the truss, (as along 13/14), the lower end of the adjustable member is connected to a first end of each of the diagonal members, (as along 10), and the second ends of the diagonal members are connected one to each of the ends of the horizontal cord, (as along 8).

To have provided the Beltz truss assembly with an adjustable member serving to vary the camber of an accompanying tension rod, as by having the

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upper end of the adjustable member connected to the middle of the lower cord of the truss with the lower end of the adjustable member connected to the first end of each of the diagonal members, and the second ends of the diagonal members connected one to each of the distal ends of the truss sections, thus allowing a variance of tension within the resulting truss structure assembly, would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made as taught by Botel et al.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed December 08, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants' remarks on page 9 of the response do not serve to overcome the drawing objection nor the rejection of claim 29 under 35 USC 112. Applicant appears to have merely set forth where in the specification the term to "engaging" lies.

As for Applicants' arguments against the applied prior art, the Beltz truss sections can certainly be attached to one another at varying locations such as at or along any of 34 and 35 thus satisfying the language to "the second section upper and lower cords *can be attached* to first ends of the first section upper and lower cords in a plurality of locations such that the truss may be assembled in a plurality of widths." With respect to claim 23 as well as claims 24, 27-30 and 32, the invention defined by the instantly rejected claims presents a truss having "only one width". Whether the width is ever adjusted and how the width is adjusted does not serve to obviate a rejection over Beltz, alone or as modified.

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To this end, it is not apparent that claim 24 defines multiple sections of truss attached to one another. Claim 24 merely recites "wherein the third section upper and lower cords *can be attached* to second ends of the first section upper and lower cords in a plurality of locations such that the truss *may be assemble* in a plurality of widths. And, claims 23 and 24 do appear to define "a unitary construction of any multiple piece assembly" (i.e., a truss).

As for claim 26, Botel teaches a vertically adjustable member at 12.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Safavi whose telephone number is (571) 272-7046. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thur., 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Engle reached on (571) 272-6660. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.



MICHAEL SAFAVI
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3673

M. Safavi
February 25, 2006